

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02

NEA-09 INT-05 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /104 W

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R 021708Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8795

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 621

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 3921

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EED, IN

SUBJECT: EC/INDIA--ORTOLI VISIT

REF: NEW DELHI 5507

1. SUMMARY: EC PRESIDENT ORTOLI'S VISIT TO INDIA APRIL 18-26 IS VIEWED IN BRUSSELS AS A USEFUL SEPT IN CEMENTING CLOSER EC-INDIAN RELATIONS BOTH WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 1973 COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT, AND IN THE CONTEXT OF EMERGING EC EFFORTS TO BROADEN ITS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICY TO THE NON-ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES. SUBSTANTIVELY THE TRIP PRODUCED NO SURPRISES, THOUGH A SOMEWHAT CLEARER DEFINITION OF AREAS OF POTENTIAL COOPERATING EMERGED. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, FRANCOIS XAVIER ORTOLI, PRESIDENT OF THE EC COMMISSION, MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA RECENTLY AND MET WITH SENIOR INDIAN OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER DURING HIS STOP IN NEW DELHI APRIL 18-22. OUR COMMISSION CONTACT RESPONSIBLE FOR RELATIONS WITH INDIA NOTES THAT THE VISIT WAS MEANT AS A GOODWILL GENTURE AND THAT NOT NEW AGREEMENTS OR
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'DEALS' WERE SIGNED. RATHER, THE COMMISSION WANTED

THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A GENERAL EXPRESSION OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE AND TO GET A CLEARER INDICATION OF THE AREAS IN WHICH SUCH COOPERATION MIGHT BE USEFULLY EXERCISED.

3. INTENSIFIED EC/INDIA COOPERATION: THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED DURING THE VISIT EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE TO INDIA OF THE EC'S GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES, ITS INCREASING FOOD AID ASSISTANCE, AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER THE UN'S EMERGENCY OPERATION FOR THE MSAS. ORTOLI STRESSED THAT THIS WAS ONLY A BEGINNING, AND THAT UNDER THE EC'S EVOLVING "OVERALL" DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION POLICY (I.E. AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE ACP AND MEDITERRANEAN GROUPINGS) INDIA WILL BE A MAJOR BENEFICIARY. WORK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EC/INDIA JOINT COMMISSION WILL BE INTENSIFIED WITH A VIEW TO DEFINING CONCRETE TRADE, INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION.

4. SPECIFIC PROJECTS ENVISAGED: THE COMMUNIQUE NOTES CERTAIN INDIAN INITIATIVES WHICH THE EC HAS AGREED TO CONSIDER. IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON EUROPEAN CHEMICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT TO IMPROVE INDIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND CONTINUED INDIAN IMPORTS OF EC CEREALS AND DAIRY PRODUCTS, BOTH AS FOOD AID AND AS COMMERCIAL PURCHASES. IN ADDITION THE POSSIBILITY OF INDIAN PRODUCTION OF FEEDGRAINS FOR EXPORT TO THE COMMUNITY WAS DISCUSSED. INDIAN COAL PRODUCTION WAS ALSO LOOKED AT, WITH THE INDIANS INTERESTED IN EVENTUALLY COVERING SOME OF THE EC'S IMPORT NEEDS. (OUR COMMISSION CONTACT CITED AN EXPORT POTENTIAL OF 5-10 MILLION TONS P.A., OF GENERALLY POOR QUALITY HOWEVER.) LASTLY, PRODUCTION OF PELLETIZED IRON-ORE FROM A JOINT EC/INDIAN PLANT FOR EXPORT TO THE EC STEEL INDUSTRY IS ALSO UNDER CONSIDERATION. OUR COMMISSION CONTACT ALSO INDICATED THAT THIS PELLETIZED IRON-ORE PROJECT COULD INCLUDE ARAB FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION.

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5. THE EC/INDIA JOINT COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ITS NEXT FORMAL MEETING IN OCTOBER. IN THE MEANTIME SUBCOMMITTEES WILL BE EXAMINING THE ISSUES RAISED DURING THE ORTOLI TRIP. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ECBRU03921
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750155-0216
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750583/aaaacyaz.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NEW DELHI 5507
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <15 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC/INDIA--ORTOLI VISIT
TAGS: PORG, OVIP, IN, EEC, (ORTOLI, FRANCOIS XAVIER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006